

I believe that Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Instead of presenting both sides of an issue, or even a true news story, the owners of Sinclair's Broadcasting are using their power to try to influence a close election. If there is no unbiased source of information (and that is what we have depended on our news stations to be) our democracy is lost.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of individuals at a local level deciding what's important for their community, we get large corporations spreading their biased views throughout the country. This is not even done honestly; by pretending that they are presenting news instead of editorials they mislead the public and leave us wondering where to put our trust.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

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